रुपए पर खरीद है, वह 500/- रुपए में कैसे एक्सपोर्टर के नाम पर उठाया गया और चावल, जिसका निर्धारित मूल्य 800/- रुपए था कैसे 600/- रुपए में उठाया गया? और, उन एक्सपोर्टरों की एक करोड़ से बढ़ाकर दो करोड़ लिमिट कैसे कर दी गई? जो बैंक लिमिट थी, वह कौन देता है और उनको किसने अधिकार दिए थे? वहां इतनी चोरी हो रही है, जिसकी तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं देते।

उपसभापति: ठीक है, तोहड़ा जी, हो गया। मंत्री जी आपको जवाब दे रहे हैं।

श्री शरद यादव: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं तोहड़ा जी की इस बात को मानता हूं कि जो पंजाब है, उसमें हमारा फूड और सिविल सप्लाई विभाग का भविष्य और वर्तमान दोनों निर्भर करता है। उनका निश्चित तौर पर यह कहना कि हमको घूमना चाहिए, बात यह भी आप ठीक कह रहे हैं। हम अभी पन्द्रह-बीस दिन से यहां हैं, तो निश्चित तौर पर उन्होंने यह बात ठीक कही। दूसरी बात उन्होंने एक्सपोर्ट की कही। महोदया, आप जानते हैं कि इस देश में जो सरप्लस स्टाक है, वह हमारे पास इतना ज्यादा है, जैसी अभी कई माननीय सदस्यों ने भी चिंता व्यक्ति की कि उसके सड़ने की बहुत संभावना है, इसलिए हमारे जो प्रिडिसेसर हैं उन्होंने और सरकार ने यह तय किया कि इसका किस तरह से ज्यादा से ज्यादा ठीक तरह से इस्तेमाल हो यानि ऑक्शन के जरिए, फूड फोर वर्क के जरिए, अंत्योदय योजना के जरिए और ग्रामीण विकास की जितनी भी योजनाएं हैं उनके जरिए से उस अनाज को बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों को खाने के लिए दिया जाए। जहां ड्राउट हो गया है, जहां साइकलोन हो गया है, उसके लिए भी बड़े पैमाने पर उसको सस्ते में देने का काम हमने किया है। एक्सपोर्ट और इम्पोर्ट में भी निश्चित तौर पर हमने जाने का काम किया है, ...(व्यवधान)... मैडम, उसमें हमने जो रिलेक्सेशन दिया है, वह रिलेक्सेशन में वाजिब मानता हूं।

सरदार गुरूचरण सिंह तोहड़ा: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि एक्सपोर्ट कहां हुआ है?

Smooth run on National Highways

†*263. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out a legislation to ensure smooth run on highways, as reported in the "Financial Express" dated the 26th June, 2002; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is proposed to constitute a body which would monitor the work of clearing encroachments, preventing traffic congestions, etc., if so, the details thereof;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B.J. Panda

(c) what would be the financial implications of the project and whether both the State and Centre would share the expenses;

(d) if so, the ratio thereof;

(e) whether it is also proposed to set up a Tribunal to settle the disputes arising therefrom; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to enact a legislation titled 'Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic)' with the objective of providing powers to the competent authority in the highways department for prevention of unauthorized occupation of highway land and their removal, control of access points to the National Highways, regulation of traffic and control of use of road land for public utility etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. The proposed legislation provides for appointment of a body to be known as Highway Administration for enforcing the provisions of the Act. The jurisdiction of the Highway Administration will be for specific section/sections of National Highway/National Highways.

(c) and (d) The estimated expenditure for implementation of the Act may be around Rs. 26 crores per annum apart from non-recurring initial expenditure of about Rs. 58 crores. The funds will be provided by the Central Government.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The proposed legislation provides for establishment of one or more Tribunals for hearing appeals against the orders of the Highway Administration and its various officers.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Madam, since Question No. 270 is also on the same subject, you may kindly club these two.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right if it can be possible.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Madam, I would like to compliment the hon. Minister on the initiative he is taking on this very important matter. The issue of highway development and its importance is well-understood. The

correlation between development of highways and economic development has been well understood in economics for a long time. If you look at the developed countries like the U.S. or Germany, in the last century, economic development has taken place at a very fast pace there after the highways were put in place. In a country like India, it takes on a special importance because of the rural and urban divide and because of regional imbalances in development. The highways will provide access to rural areas, access to areas like the North-East and the underdeveloped States, like my State, Orissa. My question to the hon. Minister is this. By bringing in this legislation and by implementing this, does he have any plans to give priority to the underdeveloped areas so that the traffic on the highways there can be quicker? I would also like to know whether he will take care of the encroachments for further development?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Madam, I am in entire agreement with the hon. Member that the linkage between development, in totality, and roads is very intimate. That is why this Government has taken up a massive unprecedented programme for development of roads. In a country where we were not spending from the Central side more than Rs. 1,400-1,500 crores per year on total development and maintenance of roads, today, we are spending ten times that amount; that is, we are spending to the tune of Rs. 14,000-15,000 crores per year. The Prime Minister's programme includes four-laning of about 14,000 kms. Madam, the hon. Member wants to know about the interior areas; even for this, presently, this Government is giving Rs. 1,080 crores for the development of State Highways and major district motor roads, and an additional Rs. 2,500 crores per year have been given for development of rural roads. Thus, an amount of over Rs. 3,500 crores is being given by the Centre alone to the States. Apart from spending almost ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: That you are giving under PMGSY...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Poojary, let him answer.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I am talking about the roads in entirety. The Prime Minister's Grameen Sadhak Yojana was also started by the Centre, and it is to connect villages with a proper motorable road. Madam, the hon. Member asked, what we are doing to develop interior area of roads. He felt that this should also be a part of the developmental activity. This amount of Rs. 2,500 crores that we spend every year is not anything but for the development of the roads; that is very much connected.

And, I am only mentioning what the Centre is giving; that is, over Rs. 3,500 crores per year to the State Governments. This is the third year and over Rs. 10,000 crores have been given by this Government for this type of development. Then, as regards encroachments, while on the one side, we are doing development of roads in a massive, unprecedented manner, we have also to take into consideration the various problems that are arising; say, the problems pertaining to the development of four-lane roads. A major construction work is going on; but there are problems. We all know that whenever we make a big road or a bypass, before the work is completed, it becomes a narrow road because of encroachments. At the moment, we have some provisions in the Cr. P.C. and the Indian Penal Code, by which we can prevent encroachments; so, in direct manner, we can prevent encroachments and clear them. Therefore, this legislation, which is coming up, is to ensure that we have a proper system under the authority of the Central Government to see that encroachments are prevented. So, if there are encroachments, then, there would be a method of removing them, and should anybody have any complaint, there is a tribunal to which it can be referred. Therefore, I want to assure the hon. Member that we are not only talking of construction of roads, but we are also making sure that these roads are free from encroachment and that they meet the requirements for which they have been constructed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Guidelines for packaging products

*264. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have laid down guidelines for packaging of specific weight/volume for various edibles/food products/ medicines/other products being marketed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, product-wise;

(c) whether there is any machinery to monitor adherance to these guidelines by various manufacturers; and